NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release Boise, Idaho – Dec. 13, 2004 For Media Information Contact: Stuart Van Greuningen – (208) 287-4905

TEL: (208) 287-4800

FAX: (208) 287-6800

Idaho irrigators can now participate in a new irrigation system audit program to help reduce energy consumption and water usage.

The two-part Agricultural Irrigation Audit Program allows irrigators to have their pump tested, their system audited, or both. Systems must be at least three years old to qualify for the program. Only auditors qualified by the Energy Division will conducts the tests.

"This program is designed to help stimulate business for qualified auditors by developing an additional customer base as well as helping the state conserve energy and water," say Stuart Van Greuningen, senior energy specialist with the Energy Division.

Sponsors assisting with the audit program are Nelson Irrigation and Reinke Manufacturing.

In conjunction with the audit program, the Energy Division has revised its low-interest loan program to cover the cost of the tests and audits as well as recommended work on the system. Ag producers can borrow a maximum of \$100,000 at 4 percent interest for five years.

For more information call the Idaho Energy Hotline at 1-800-334-SAVE or email the Energy Division's agricultural team at aim@idwr.idaho.gov.

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